GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1137
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
INDO-IRAN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran propose to extend cooperation in the field of Science & Technology;

(b) if so, the details of sectors identified by both the countries till date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that joint commission set up by both the countries in 1996 to cooperate in the field of science has not met frequently and has been defunct since then;

(d) if so, the number of meetings held by this commission; and

(e) the achievements of this joint commission till date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is attached

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1137 FOR ANSWER ON 26.11.202 REGARDING INDO-IRAN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Yes, Sir, Following the visit of the Iranian Minister for Science, Research andTechnology to India during October 23-25, 2002 and the visit of Hon`ble Minister for Science & Technology, HRD and DOD of India to Iran during November 8-10, 2002, a Joint Statement or Indo-Iran Scientific and Technological Cooperation was signed during the latter`s visit to Iran on November 09, 2002.Both sides agreed to cooperate through exchange of researchers, scientific documentation and holding of joint workshops and training programmes with more focus in the priority areas of (i) Information and Communication Technology; (ii) Energy; (iii) Industrial Technology; (iv) Environment; (v) Food Technology; (vi) Sustainable Development; and (vii) Other areas as determined by them through mutual consulations.

Under the aegis of the Joint Commission, a Joint Working Group on Scientific Technology Cooperation has been constituted with Secretary, Department of Science and Technology as the Co-Chairman from the Indian side.The last meeting of the Joint Working Group took place in Tehran in 21-23 December 1996 during which a programme of cooperation in Science & Technology was signed between the two sides. However, there was not much movement on progressing the programmes beyond the initial spade work, in terms of exchange of visits of scientific teams on the specific topics of Drugs & Pharmaceutics, Mini Cement Plants, Vaccine development and training of Iranian S&T personnel in CSIR LaboratoriesRecently there has been a renewal of interest in more active pursuit of cooperation in science and technology as evidenced in the joint statement signed in October, 2002.